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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Assignment of Specialists
in Industry (shortages of technical
& specialized personnel)

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there will be a decrease in 1960, as compared with 1959, in the number of students completing courses in technical subjects at the universities and specialist schools of East Germany. As a result, there will not be enough new specialists available to fill vacancies in the plants in the chemical industry. Only in the fields of mathematics and physics is the number of students larger than the number of anticipated vacancies. The VVBs, to be sure, have shown themselves quite willing to employ these students and to retrain them, where necessary, in the specialties which are needed; this practice is said to have been followed with success in 1958.

2. The chemical industry will require 167 new specialists in 1960 in the field of "processing technique" (Verfahrenstechnik) alone. However, the schools are expected to produce only 60 graduates in this field, and of these only 32 will be assigned to the chemical industry.
3. The universities are training chemists in numbers which would meet the anticipated needs as established before the introduction of the "chemistry program". Now, however, the needs are considerably greater. In 1960 the chemical industry will have 431 chemists available.
4. A serious shortage is in prospect in the fields of steam generation, power supply, and adjustment technique for prime movers and machinery. In these fields there will not be even one graduate in 1960.
5. The Leuna Works reported a requirement for 5 physicists, but 7 were assigned to the firm, because an excess number of physicists was available and because it was assumed that the Schwedt plant would require them. A protest was made on the ground that there were no jobs open in the Leuna Works for the two extra persons.

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50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

-2-

The VVBs have demanded that the State Secretariat for Higher and Specialized Education provide more exact figures on the decrease in the number of graduates. The institutions of higher education often permit students to continue their studies, so that they are not available for assignment to industry, even though jobs in industry may have been designated for them in the Plan for the Assignment of Graduates. On the other hand, the University of Halle is criticized because, to avoid overcrowding in its laboratories, it sends partially trained students to factories to finish their studies in the guise of research assistants.

7. The VVBs concerned with machine construction complain that there are plenty of graduates with specialties for which there is little demand, but not enough in the fields where the need is great. The employment managers assert that the assignment of graduates by the State Secretariat does not meet the needs of the economy. In view of the shortage of research technicians, for example, it would be possible for the chemical industry to take efficiency technicians (Fördertechniker) and retrain them as processing technicians; the State Secretariat pays insufficient attention to such possibilities. Incidentally, the Technische Hochschule in Magdeburg has a plan for reducing the shortage of research technicians by offering correspondence courses in this field, but the State Secretariat has not yet approved such courses.
8. Some factory officials who are also part-time instructors at universities have insisted on directing their most promising students to their own plants for employment. Also, the College of Architecture in Leipzig made a direct approach to the Bureau for Construction and Engineering (KIB), offering several graduates to it, although it is claimed that the construction industry needs all the graduates in the construction field. These practices are considered to have contributed to the difficulties under discussion.

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Next 5 Page(s) In Document Denied